

SPARK

Save the Park at RiverbanK
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Press Release:

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SPARK RAISING CONCERNS ON UNPLANNED DEVELOPMENT

Members of SPARK (Save the Park at RiverbanK) will be attending the March 15, 1999 meeting of the Newark Central Planning Board, to voice their objections and concerns about several development applications before the Planning Board. The Planning Board Meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM, in the City Council chambers at City Hall, 920 Broad St.

"Each of these applications requests a number of variances, that is, exceptions to the law," said Manuel Lavin, from SPARK. "Every time the Planning Board grants a variance from the law, it has negative results for the rest of us. Allowing 3 family buildings instead of 2 family buildings results in more people, more overcrowded schools, more terrible parking problems, and increased traffic. The quality of life for the rest of us continues to go downhill. Granting all these variances has to stop."

One of the largest development applications could bring over 1000 additional children into the Ironbound community. Schools in Ironbound are crowded now. Some classrooms have as many as 40 students. School additions, planned for many years at Hawkins St. and Ann St. Schools, have not begun. Additional school space will be required.

SPARK, with assistance from professional planners, developed a draft of a Community Plan for Ironbound, which has been sent to all the Planning Board members. "These applications have to be looked at in a more comprehensive way. Without enough park space, recreational opportunities and schools, the quality of life in Ironbound will deteriorate, and people will move," said Nancy Zak.